

**METHOD FOR LOAD BALANCING OF REQUESTS FOR SERVICE BY DEVICES ON  
A NETWORK AND A DEVICE AND A NETWORK FOR CARRYING OUT SUCH  
METHOD**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5       A method for balancing the load of requests from a number of network devices  
for service from a selected one of a number of service providers, the devices and the  
service providers being interconnected by a network, and a network device and a  
network for carrying out such method. The device stores a location code representative  
of the devices geographic location and a table relating location codes and network  
10       addresses for the service providers. At least the approximate distance from the  
geographic location of the device and a service provider can be determined from their  
respective location codes. To send a request the device uses the table to identify the  
network address of the closest service provider and attempts to log-on to that service  
provider.